

Merrillville Police Department



2005 ANNUAL REPORT



"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Public Service Commitment

It is essential that each officer realizes the responsibilities and various duties of the position and the confidence that is reposed to that position, all of which are of great importance to both the public and to the officer. As a result of acceptance to appointment as a police officer assigned to the Merrillville Police Department, an officer may appear to have lost his identity as a private citizen. The public no longer thinks of an officer as a citizen, thus an officers personal conduct, both on and off duty, will reflect upon the entire police department. An officer should realize that a person is identified in accordance with the company he keeps; therefore, an officer should exercise care and good judgment in the selection of associates as well as the reputation of fraternity and association. An officer's character is his capital. An officer must deal fairly and honorably with all persons contacted.

An officer should avoid placing himself under special obligation unnecessarily to anyone. From time to time an officer's duty may demand that he act in opposition to some individual interest. An officer should receive and consider all complaints realizing that every person has a right to be heard and a word of comfort to the afflicted or advice to the erring at the proper time and place will prove rewarding for the officer and the police department as well as the individual involved. Whenever it is necessary to affect an arrest, do so without fail, using only the degree of force necessary to protect yourself and properly secure the person or persons so arrested.

An officer's promptness in his conduct is a very important factor. An officer should be present for duty on time and prompt in appearance for all appointments. An officer should keep his immediate commanding officer informed where there is any indication that prompt attention to duty due to circumstances beyond his control is in question. An officer should school himself in all occasions to keep cool. An officer should set his mind to his work and never suffer himself to be an idle spectator while on duty.

Finally, it should be emphasized that the Department is an organization whose very existence is justified solely on the basis of community service.

It should be considered the duty and privilege of every officer, not only to protect the citizens from the criminal, but also to protect and defend the rights guaranteed under our structure of government. The Departments broad philosophy must embrace a wholehearted determination to protect and support the doctrine of individual rights while providing for the security and safety of persons and property in the community. In meeting this objective it is the duty of the Police Department to operate as a service organization.



"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Town Government

Merrillville Town Council

Ron Widing, President

Richard Hardaway, Vice President

Terrell Taylor

D. Lance Huish

David Uzelac

Joseph Shudick Jr.

Shawn Pettit

Clerk-Treasurer

Rose Ann Antich

Town Manager

Tim Brown

Board of Police Commissioners

Rick Bella, President

John Johnson

Larry Ulbrich

Chief of Police

Nicholas L. Bravos



"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

From the Town Council:

The Town of Merrillville enjoys great diversity in housing, residents, and culture. It is rich with business districts that support the 35,000 residents and 12,000 individual households. It is estimated that during any given week-day, the population of Merrillville grows to over 100,000 due to shoppers and workers throughout the town. Merrillville has become the crossroads of the county as it has the popular I-65 that runs through most of the town as well as the U.S. Route 30.

Since 1971 Merrillville's population has grown tremendously. Many communities in the country would struggle to keep up with such growth, the Town of Merrillville Police Department has met this challenge, and has grown into one of Northwest Indiana's premier law enforcement agencies.

In 2005, the department again showed its commitment to community oriented policing with it's NET (Neighborhood Enforcement Team) Project. In addition the police department graduated more than 500 students from it's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, which aims to help children remain drug free.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our Police Department, and feel the resident's of Merrillville can be too. As another year passes, the entire Town Council would like to congratulate and thank the police department for their outstanding service and dedication in 2005, and we look forward to supporting their mission of community service and safety in 2006.

Sincerely,

Town of Merrillville Town Council

Ron Widing

Ron Widing



Ron Widing
Town Council
President



Richard Hardaway
Town Council
Vice President



Terrell Taylor
Town Council
Member Ward 1



D. Lance Huish
Town Council
Member Ward 3



David Uzelac
Town Council
Member Ward 4



Joseph Shudick Jr.
Town Council
Member Ward 5



Shawn Pettit
Town Council
Member Ward 6



"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Letter from the Police Commission

The Metropolitan Board of Police Commissioners of Merrillville would like to extend its gratitude to the Merrillville community and their representatives on the Town Council for their ongoing support of our police department. The group effort has been dominate as the catalyst for the changes and on going improvements in the department.

The 2005 calendar year was an extremely busy time for the police department. Never before in our town's history have we hired more new police officers than this year. The main reason for this is due to many of our original police officers are now in a position to retire with many having already done so. Although we are saddened by the loss of so many seasoned veterans, we also look forward to offering new opportunities to many young men and women pursuing a career in law enforcement.

The Merrillville Police Department, through the direction of Chief Nicholas Bravos, has become a pro-active department with much higher visibility than in past years. New police car designs have made residents and visitors take notice that new "black & white" patrol cars are around to serve and protect.

The Town Council has supported the budgetary requirements of the department to the best of its ability given the current state of finances in all communities throughout Lake County. Chief Bravos and several officers have also provided additional funding that is outside of the operating budget by catching and prosecuting criminals that offer funding for the town by way of forfeited cash seized during the arrests and convictions of these crimes.

The management team, consisting of Chief Nicholas Bravos, Assistant Chief Joseph Petruch, Operations Commander D. Lance Huish and Support Services Commander James Donohue bring a combined total of 90-years of police experience and leadership to our department. They continue to lead by example with professionalism and confidence.

The Police Commissions is proud of the entire department and are honored to serve on the Metropolitan Board of Police Commissioners. The members for 2006 are Commissioner Larry Ulbrich who will serve as our Chairman for 2006, Commissioner John Johnson and Commissioner Rick Bella. We thank the Council for their wisdom in keeping some consistency on this very important board. There is much work to do, but we look forward to another productive year and welcome you to review the attached information about our progress in 2005. We are available at any time to assist you with questions, comments or suggestions.

Serving and Protecting Because We Care!

Rick Bella

Rick Bella
Police Commission President



Richard Bella
President



John Johnson
Commissioner



Larry Ulbrich
Commissioner

"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

From the Chief of Police



Nicholas L. Bravos
Chief of Police

As I reflect upon our past year at the Merrillville Police Department, I want to acknowledge and thank the Merrillville Town Council, Town Manager, Clerk Treasurer, and department heads for their continued support and confidence.

The Merrillville Police Department continues to place quality service as a priority to our community and all of those we serve. In our schools, Merrillville Police Officers are focused on providing our children with support and guidance through our Adopt-a-School program. In addition, our officers are committed to programs such as D.A.R.E., and other school committees and youth programs. We have committed ourselves to a School Resource Officer program which has proven successful with hopes of growing. We also continue to serve our community with public information and assistance with neighborhood groups. The Merrillville Police Department was actively involved

in the 2005 National Night Out where our Neighborhood Enforcement Officers visited eleven neighborhood night out gatherings meeting new neighbors and rekindling old relationships.

While we continually strive to impact our community with outreach programs, we understand that protecting and serving the citizen's of Merrillville is our first priority. The Merrillville Police Department responded to 43,400 calls for service in 2005, which was an increase of 16% from the prior year. To address such a call load, our officers logged 3,713 hours of training and we increased our manpower by one additional officer in 2005.

It gives me great pride to report that one of our own police dispatchers, Lindsey Griffith, returned from her tour of duty in the war on terrorism. Lindsey has completed 18 months of duty in Iraq serving our country in the United States Army and returned November 18, 2005 to the Merrillville Police Department communication division.

I would like to thank Kelly Lemmons, Carmen Richardson, Sandy Eberle, and Angela Miller for their efforts in compiling all the necessary information and data for this annual report. I sincerely appreciate and thank each and every member of the Merrillville Police Department for all their hard work during this past year. Their dedication and work ethic are second to none. We as a department would not have obtain our goal of providing a safe community without the dedicated professionals that serve the citizen's of the Town of Merrillville.

Respectfully,

Nicholas L. Bravos

Nicholas L. Bravos
Chief of Police

"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"



Introduction

In reviewing the data presented in this year end report , one should understand that the main purpose of this information is to compile criminal, traffic, and other police related statistics for administrative use. These statistics assist us with the affective operations of our police department. Simultaneously these statistics are provided to individuals who are not directly associated with our police department operations however have a related interest in the issues which govern our community.

Reporting and collecting police criminal statistics, and the interpretation of those statistics, are a vital component of law enforcement. It is essential that we maintain accurate statistics, failing to do so would result in a loss in police performance which would culminate into a loss for our community. By using these records and statistics we may meet the many challenges which present them-selves to us everyday in the field of law enforcement.

Crime is inherently a social problem which concerns the entire community we live in. The crime rate is primarily the result of those residing within that community, victims, as well as the offenders themselves. The police department, utilizing our collection of records, statistically report on local crime rates within their community as part of a responsibility to its citizen's. Citizen's support of law enforcement has a direct impact on the success of the police department to reduce crime.

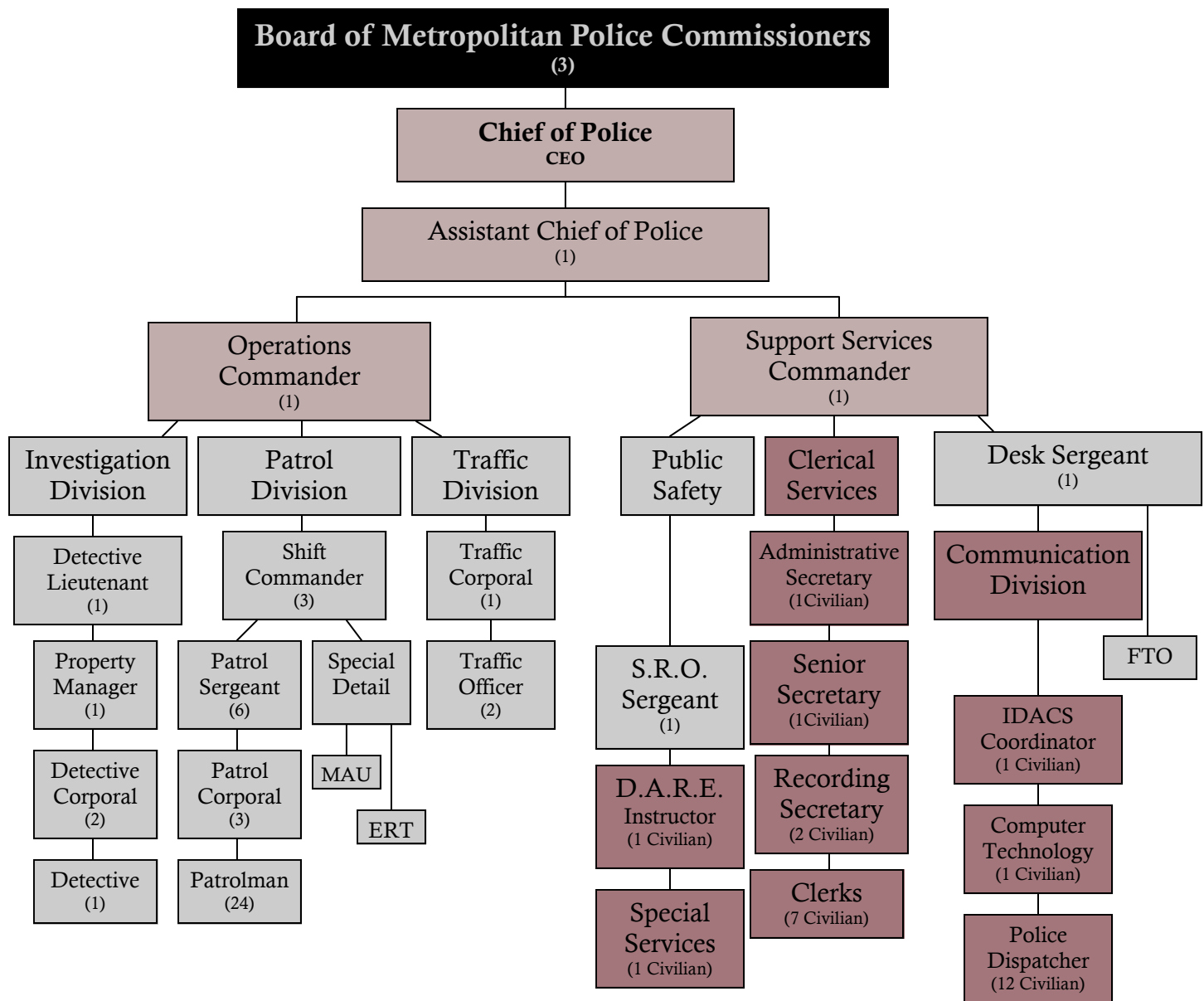
The Merrillville Police Department utilizes several approaches in an effort to reduce and control crime including prevention, suppression, and deterrence. As we did in 2004, again in 2005 we focused on a more proactive approach to crime and made less of an emphasis on traffic. We continued to utilize the Neighborhood Enforcement Team approach in regards to community oriented policing. This team approach was instituted in 2004 and continues to be successful allowing officers an opportunity to get back into the neighborhoods and business districts to better develop communications. It is essential for law enforcement to improve communications with our citizen's so we may better serve them.

One may not compare statistics from year to year without first considering all the factors involved. The material in this report may be used as a guide in determining the changes in the rate of crime between individual years. The rates of crime may be compared to those found in the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports.

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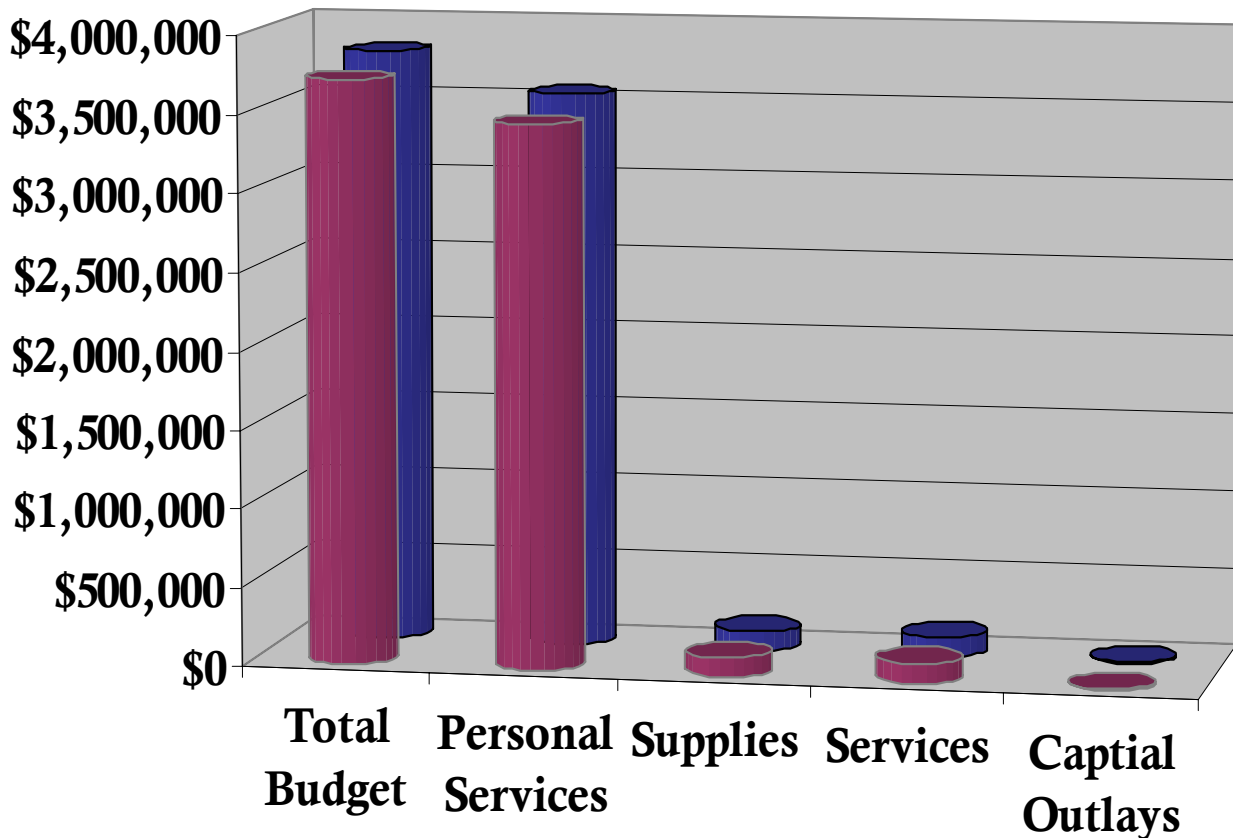
Organizational Structure

2005 Merrillville Police Department



"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Operating Budget



2004

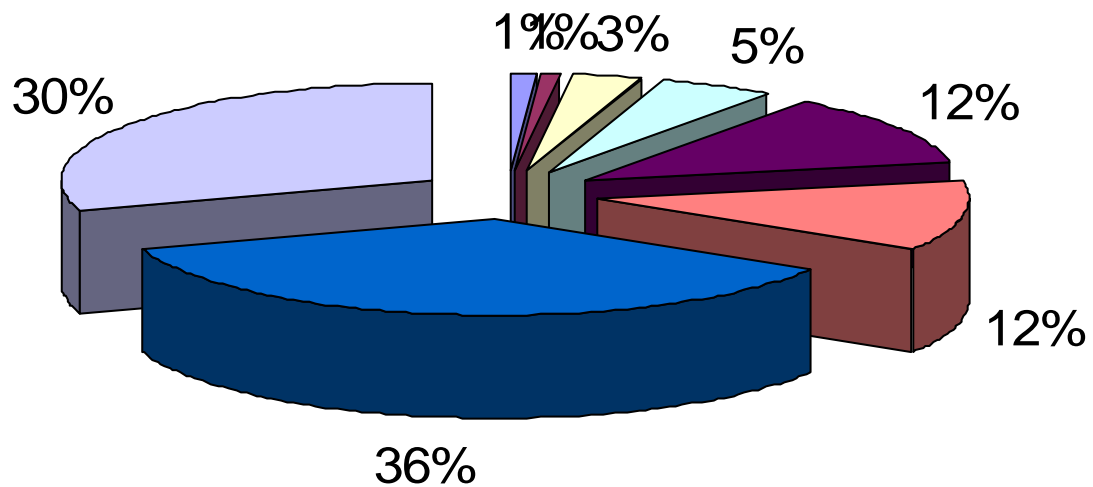
Total Budget	\$3,715,930.00
Personal Services	\$3,458,830.00
Supplies	\$ 121,000.00
Services	\$ 128,100.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 8,000.00

2005

Total Budget	\$3,809,039.00
Personal Services	\$3,552,039.00
Supplies	\$ 121,000.00
Services	\$ 128,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 8,000.00

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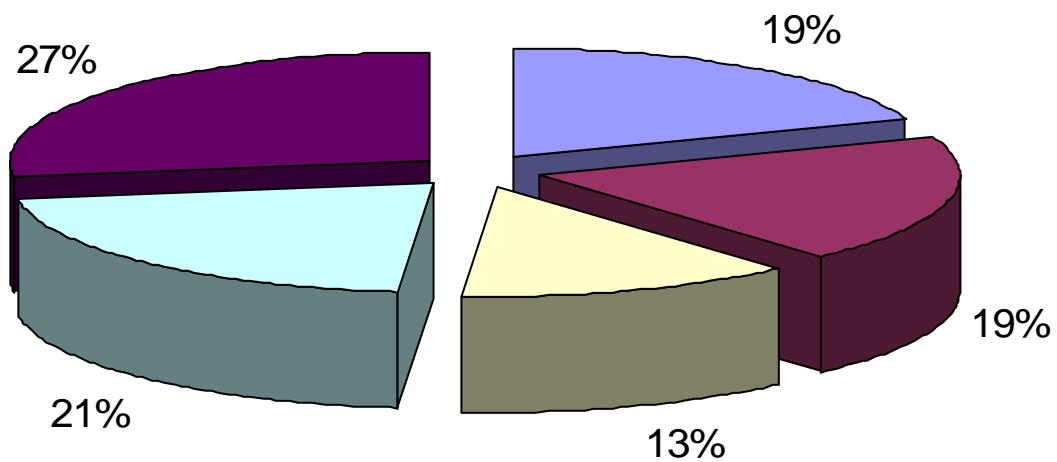
2005 Personnel by Rank



Chief	Asst. Chief	Commander	Lieutenant
Sergeant	Corporal	Patrolman	Civilian

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2005 Years of Service



20 + years
6 - 10 years

16 - 20 years
0 - 5 years

11 - 15 years

Average Age - 37
Average Years of Service - 12

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Administrative Staff



Nicholas L. Bravos
Chief of Police



Joseph Petruch Jr.
Assistant Chief



D. Lance Huish
Operations Commander



James Donohue
Support Services Commander

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Awards and Promotions

2005 Officer of the Year

The officer of the Year award is presented to the individual who has unselfishly given of themselves for the betterment department. This individual has placed the department and the citizens of Merrillville as a priority in their lives.

Commander James Donohue

Excellence in Law Enforcement Supervision

The excellence in law enforcement award in supervision is presented to a supervisor within the organization who continues to set a high standard for others to emulate. This individual is a vital part of the departments success as a public safety agency.

Lieutenant Timothy Wardrip

Excellence in Law Enforcement Investigation

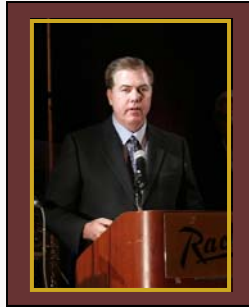
The excellence in law enforcement award in investigation is presented to a detective within the organization who continues to achieve great success in criminal investigation. This individual is an integral part of the departments detective bureau which is responsible for solving crimes in our community.

Detective Corporal Jeff Rice

Excellence in Law Enforcement Patrol

The excellence in law enforcement award in patrol is presented to a patrol officer within our organization who relentlessly sacrifices themselves for the sole purpose of protecting and serving our community. This individual is the most valuable player on our department. This individual always gives of himself with no expectation of any reward.

Patrolman James Bogner



Letters of Commendation

Level I -

Ptlm. James Bogner
Cpl. Barry Clanton
Ptlm. Anthony Konvalinka
Ofc. Elaine Martinez
Ptlm. Curtis Minchuk
Sgt. Joseph Rebesco
Sgt. John Westmoreland
Cpl. Robert Wiley

Level II -

Ptlm. James Bogner
Ptlm. Gerald Croarkin
Det. Cpl. Jeff Rice
Ptlm. Ray Smith

Promotions, Reassignments, & Retirements

- Barry Clanton was promoted from Patrolman to Corporal
- Jeff Snemis was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant
- John Westmoreland was promoted From Corporal to Sergeant
- Cpl. James Regan was reassigned to the Patrol Division from Investigations
- Cpl. Michael Gurgevich was reassigned to Criminal Investigations from Patrol
- Lt. Steve Nolan retired on July 9, 2005

"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Neighborhood Enforcement Team

Team Map Area



Ptlm. David Degard
Area 1



Ptlm. Luther Cuttino
Area 2



Cpl. Nick Berzac
Area 3



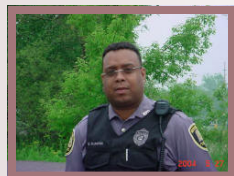
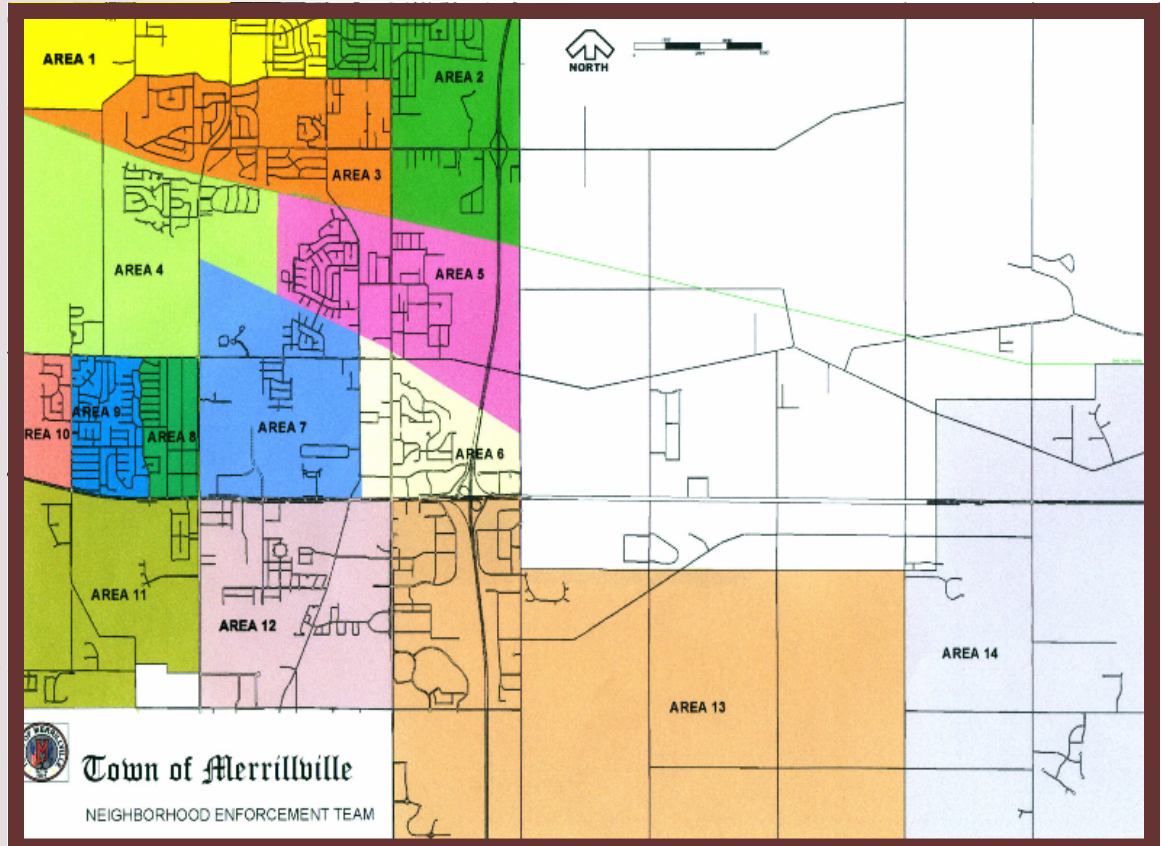
Cpl. Dave Barron
Area 4



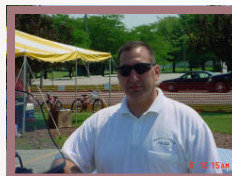
Ptlm. David DeSalle
Area 5



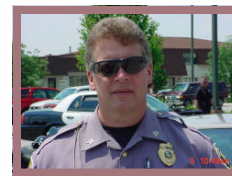
Ptlm. James Bogner
Area 10



Cpl. Barry Clanton
Area 6



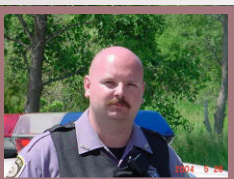
Sgt. Joseph Rebesco
Area 7



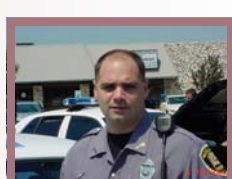
Sgt. Brad Best
Area 8



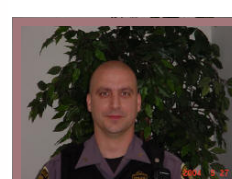
Ptlm. Jerry Sliz
Area 9



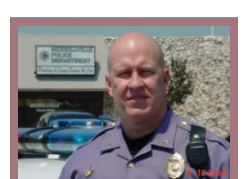
Ptlm. Kurt Horvath
Area 11



Ptlm. Ray Smith
Area 12



Cpl. Mike Gurgevich
Area 13



Sgt. Robert Morgan
Area 14

"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

N. E. T. Project

In June of 2004 the Town of Merrillville was introduced to a new community oriented policing plan titled "Neighborhood Enforcement Team Project". The program focuses on Officers getting into the neighborhood and business districts on a more personal level as to improve communication between the police and the residents they serve. The Town was divided into 14 areas and one officer was assigned to each area. The assigned area became the responsibility of that officer. The officer would patrol his area looking to meet residents and business owners offering them any assistance they may need. The officer also looks to reach out to the children in the community. Don't be surprised if you see officers shooting baskets with youngsters or playing in a park. That's what this programs all about, officers reaching out to the community letting the citizens know that the police are friendly, compassionate, and are here to help in any way they can. The Neighborhood Enforcement Team Project has been funded by the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant in the past, however to keep the program functioning we have now set funding aside within our normal operating budget. It has been unfortunate that the grant funding resources have turned the sights away from community oriented policing and focused on other issues they feel are important. Our neighborhoods are extremely important and the administration of the Merrillville Police Department has put communication with our citizens as a priority in our community. We have also dedicated a phone line solely to the program. Residents may call (219)756-6180 to reach the Neighborhood Enforcement Officer's phone line and leave a message for any of the fourteen Neighborhood Enforcement Officers. Below is a list of Officer's and the area they represent with the extension number they may be reached at via the Neighborhood Enforcement Line. Having a dedicated phone line offers immediate attention to one's issue and in addition we believe gives a direct message to the officer without others involved.

Neighborhood Enforcement Line

219-756-6180

Area 1 Officer David Degard Ext. 517
Area 2 Officer Luther Cuttino Ext. 516
Area 3 Cpl. Nick Berzac Ext. 511
Area 4 Cpl. David Barron Ext. 350
Area 5 Officer David DeSalle Ext. 518
Area 6 Officer Barry Clanton Ext. 514
Area 7 Sgt. Joseph Rebesco Ext. 352

Area 8 Sgt. Brad Best Ext. 355
Area 9 Officer Jerry Sliz Ext.537
Area 10 Officer James Bogner Ext. 512
Area 11 Officer Kurt Horvath Ext. 529
Area 12 Officer Ray Smith Ext. 538
Area 13 Cpl. Michael Gurgevich Ext.527
Area 14 Sgt. Robert Morgan Ext.356



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Public Relations

Public Education Programs

The Merrillville Police Department dedicates many resources to the public education programs it offers. Officers meet with adults and children from the community to teach them crime prevention strategies. In conjunction with many youth programs, such as girl scouts and boy scouts, officers conduct tours and make presentations to children on how to report a crime and not become a victim. The police department attempts to eliminate natural barriers in an attempt to interact with children of our community. We annually have an “open house” so as to allow the community to meet officers, view our facility, and see the different equipment that we use to combat crime. The police department supplies handout material to children to reinforce the safety messages.

Police officers are also called on to make presentations to homeowner associations and service organizations. Some groups request general information while other groups request specific crime prevention presentations. Businesses have also utilized the resources of our department to conduct employee training on armed robbery and fraud.

Child Identification

The Merrillville Police Department provides different forms of child identification throughout the year. During our “open house” we offered free child identification cards to all who attended. In addition we offer other forms of child identification including finger print cards. Parents are welcome to stop by our station and pick up these helpful ID kits. The police department frequently brings supplies, handout material, and ID kits to local schools and business to assist with their safety day activities and festivals.



“Protecting and Serving Because We Care”

Public Relations

Billboard Project

In 2005 Lamar Advertising was gracious enough to allow our department take part in an advertising promotion for the Town of Merrillville. Lamar donated the advertising space for several billboards throughout the Town displaying our caption “Good Guys Wear Black”. Below are several photographs which were taken during a photo shoot for this campaign. We have received fantastic feedback from our community and are continuing this promotion into 2006.

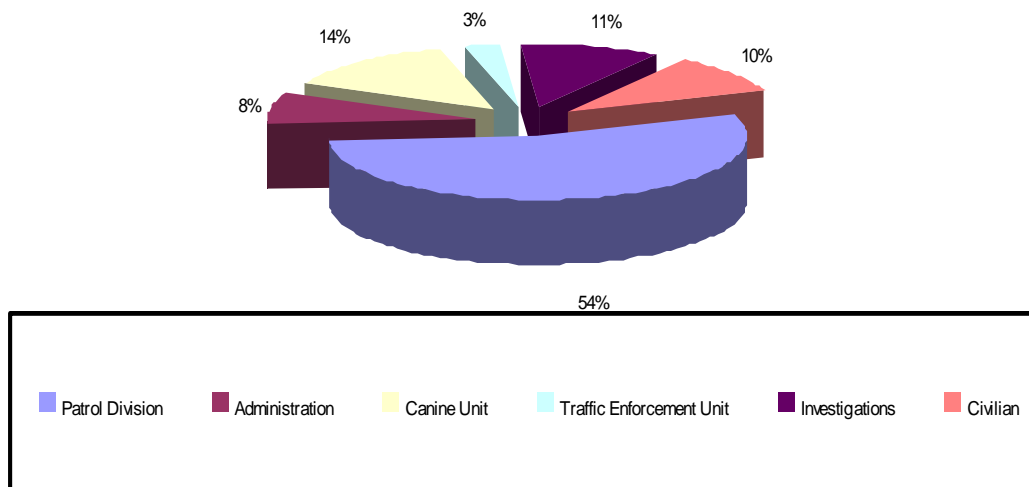


“Protecting and Serving Because We Care”

Department Training



2005 Department Training by Division



Training Hours



Patrol Division	2,247.5
Investigations	444.5
Traffic Unit	123.5
Canine Unit	582
Administration	316
Civilian	416
TOTAL:	4,129.5



"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Records Division

Annual Report



Ronda Cook

The year 2005 has proven to be another busy year for our Records Division. The year ran smoothly due to a great secretarial staff. The secretaries continue to put forth a tremendous effort in working together professionally in running an efficient Records Division. I am proud of our secretarial staff and the teamwork they exhibit on a daily basis and the efficiency they provide to meet the needs of our citizens.

The number of Town Ordinance Violation citations received in the department in 2005 was 896. This was an increase from 836 citations received in 2004.

The number of false alarm letters issued from the department was 1,708. This was an increase from the 1,606 issued in 2004.

The number of gun permits issued totaled 403. This was a slight increase from 393 that were issued in 2004. Revenue totaled \$4,030.00.

Accident requests from the public totaled 3,300 with a total revenue of \$16,500.00.

The goal of the Records Division for 2006 is to provide a professional and pleasant atmosphere in meeting the needs of our citizens of the Town of Merrillville.

With great respect,

Ronda Cook

Ronda Cook
Secretary to Chief



Carmen Richardson, Sandra Eberle, Ronda Cook,
Angela Miller, and Kelly Lemmons

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Traffic Enforcement Unit



Corporal Barry Clanton

Greetings,

2005 was a very busy and successful year for the new Traffic Enforcement Unit, which was formed in mid May. For our initial year, the unit issued 2,006 citations, of which many were for speeding, seat belt violations and child passenger restraint violations. The traffic Enforcement Unit also made 74 Misdemeanor traffic arrests during the year.

As the Town continues to grow, the number of traffic crashes continues to grow each year. Since June of 2005, the Traffic responded to several property damage as well as personal injury crashes. This year the unit has taken a total of 398 State crash reports with an additional 93 private property crash reports.

It will continue to be the goal of the Traffic Enforcement Unit to further reduce the number of crashes and injuries on town roadways.

Through continuing participation with other agencies, the Merrillville Police Department receives state grant money to take part in special enforcement projects such as Operation Pull-over national seat belt mobilization campaign and the D.U.I. taskforce, which targets impaired drivers. The success of these enforcement efforts, combined with the hard work and dedication of every Merrillville Police Officers, has led to nearly an 85% seat belt usage rate within the Town.

The Traffic Enforcement Unit also participates in public relation activities throughout the year. A Child Passenger Safety Technician on our department is available to inspect and install car seats. The unit also participated in several events with other agencies and municipalities in conducting child passenger safety clinics for the public. The Traffic Enforcement Unit received much media coverage which was used to educate the public about local traffic concerns and enforcement issues.

As I look ahead to 2006, I would like to encourage all employees and citizens of the Town of Merrillville to drive safely, buckle their belts and to not drink and drive.

Sincerely,

Barry Clanton

Corporal Barry Clanton
Traffic Enforcement Unit

"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Traffic Enforcement Unit



Corporal Barry Clanton
Traffic Enforcement Supervisor

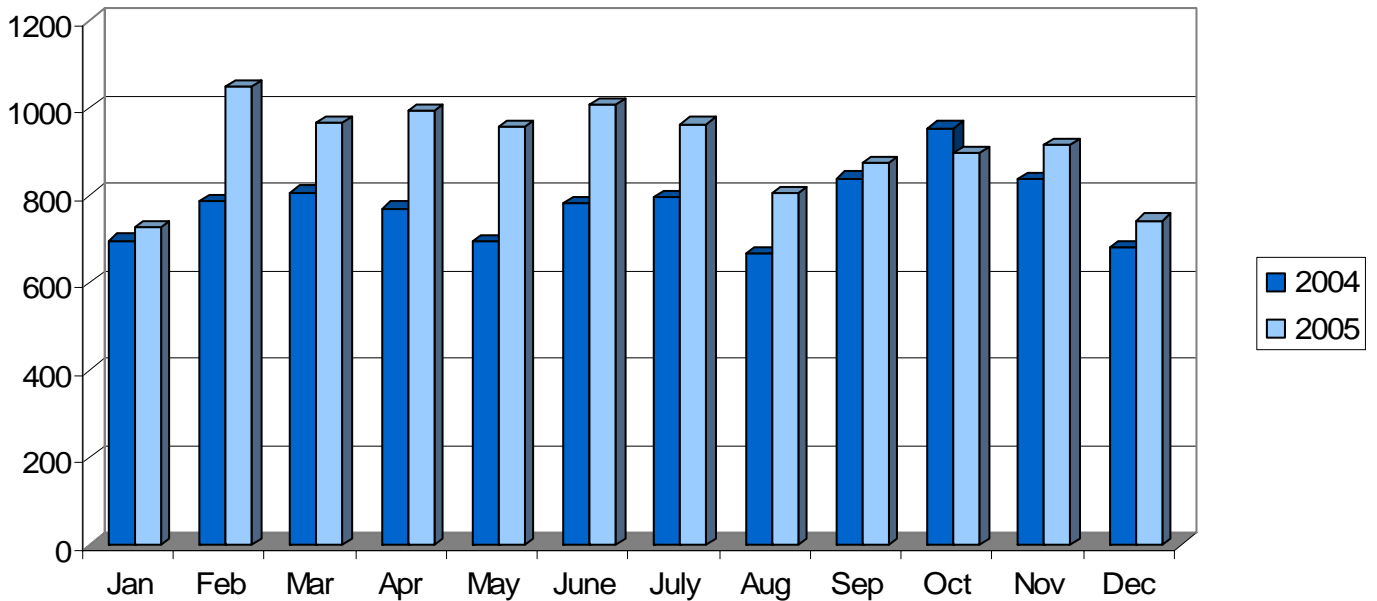


Officer Donnell Etienne Officer Kurt Horvath Officer David Degard

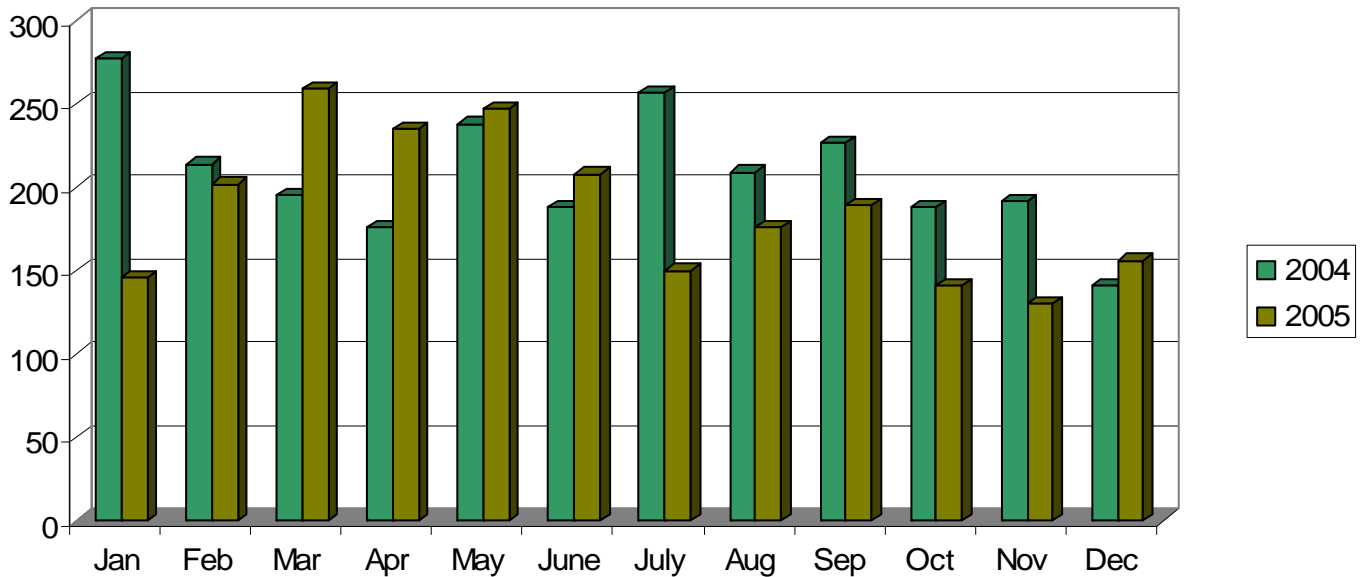
"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Department Citations & Warnings

Citations Issued per Month



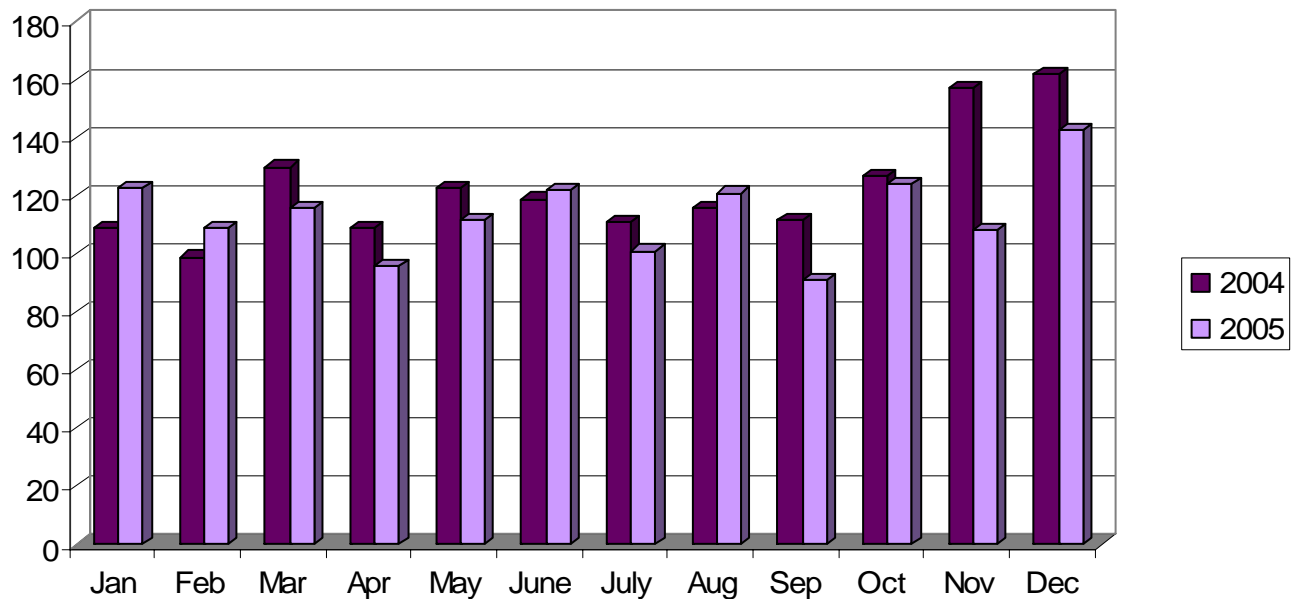
Warnings Issued per Month



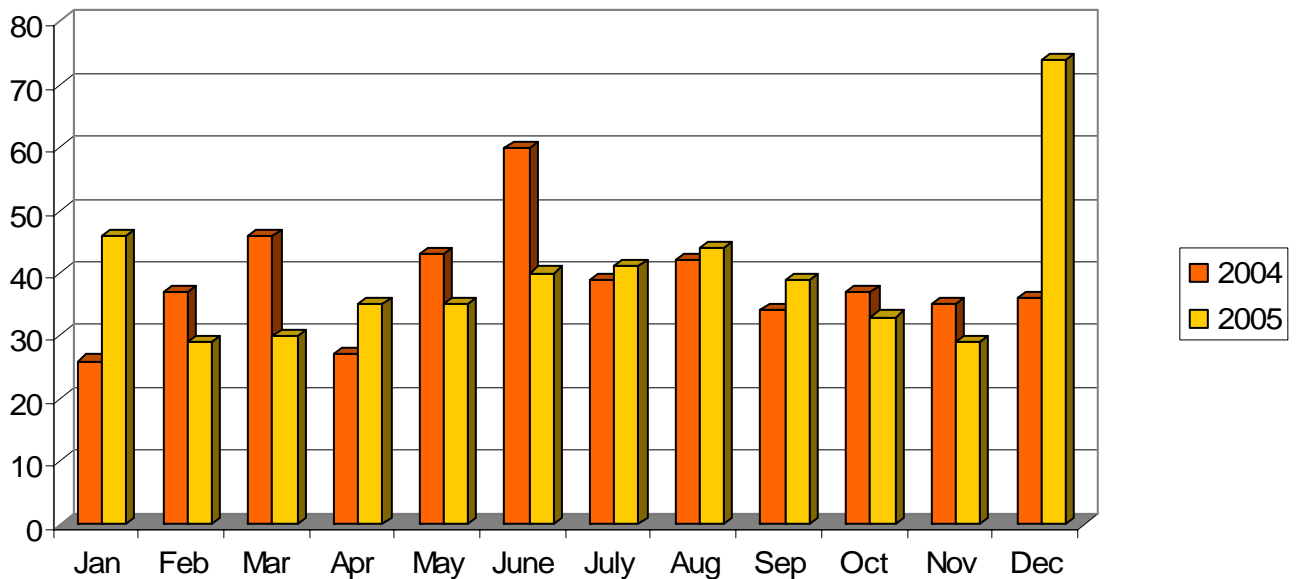
"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

Traffic Crash Reports

State Accident Reported per Month



Private Property Accident Reported per Month

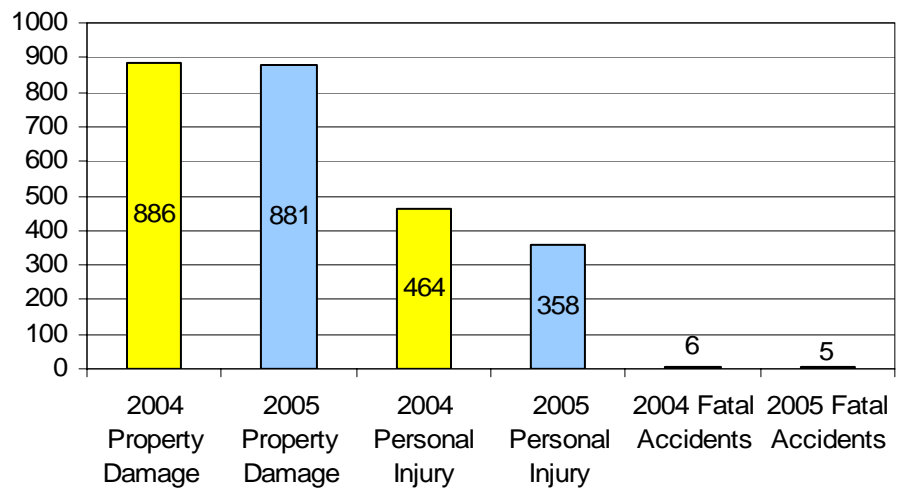


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Traffic Crashes by Type



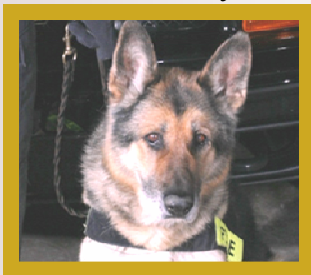
2004 vs. 2005 Crashes



"Protecting and Serving Because We Care"

2005 Annual Canine Report

In Memory of

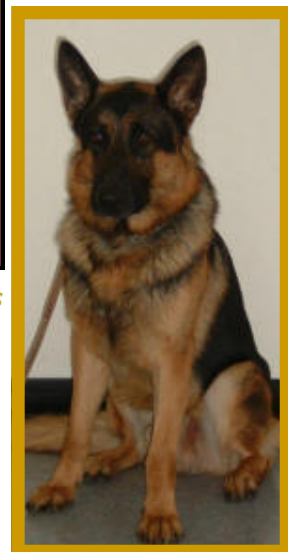


Volker

August 12, 2005, Friday at approximately 10:15 am Merrillville Police Canine Volker, a nine year veteran, succumbed to cancer and passed away. Volker and his handler Cpl. Joseph Gonzales have been responsible for hundreds of apprehensions and arrests during his 9 year career. Volker Will be deeply missed by all of us here at the Merrillville Police Department.



Corporal Joseph Gonzales
Canine Division Supervisor



Sirrus

Canine Searches

Vehicle Searches	32
Room Searches	3
School Searches	4
Building Searches	1

Other Activity

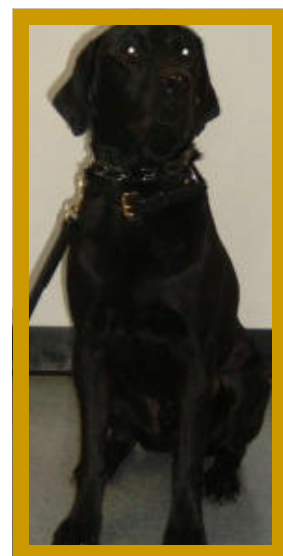
Demonstrations	3
Callouts	6
Tracks	11
Apprehensions	3

Seizures:

Marijuana	297 Grams
Methamphetamine	6 Grams
Cocaine	50 Grams



Officer Nathan Schrock
Canine Handler



Rocco



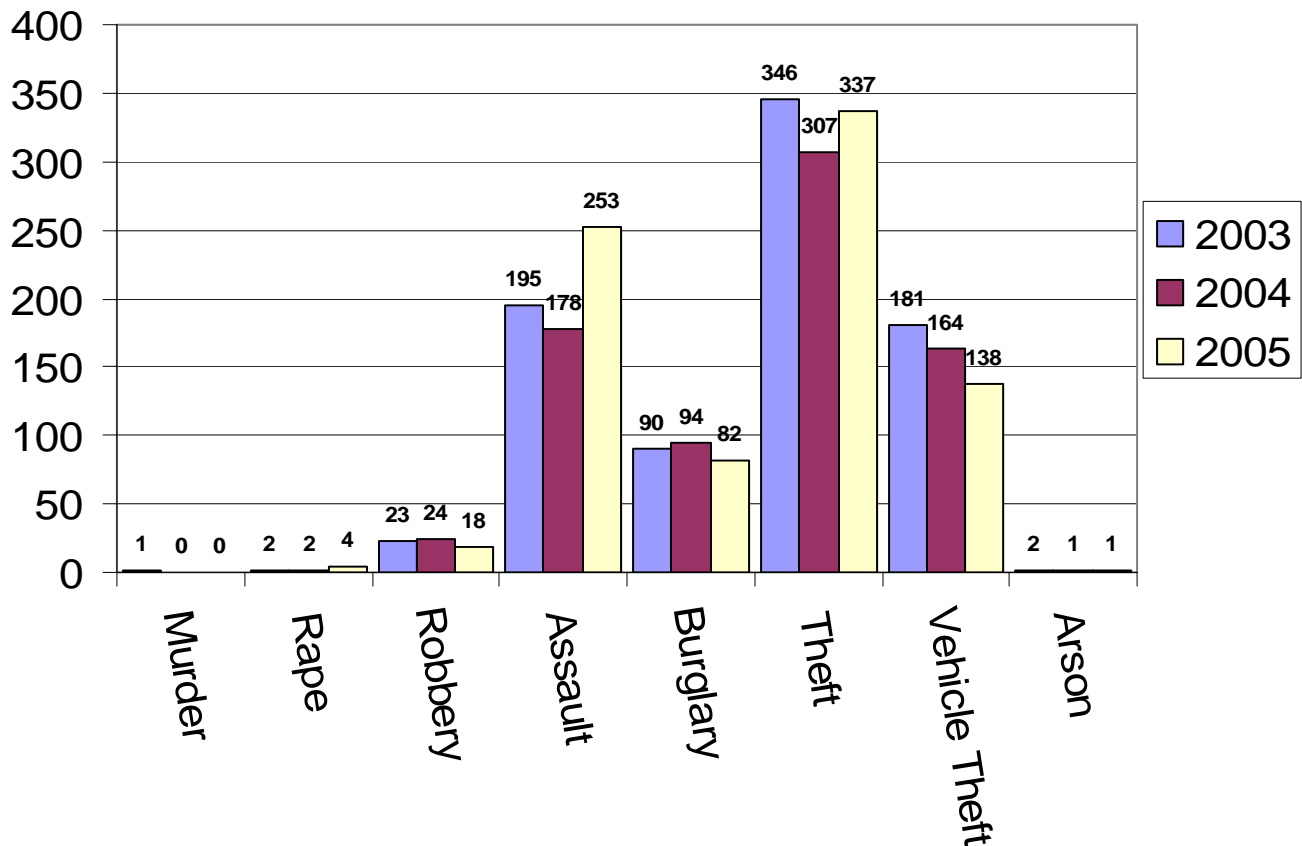
Officer David DeSalle
Canine Handler

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Uniformed Crime Report

*United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigations
Uniformed Crime Report*

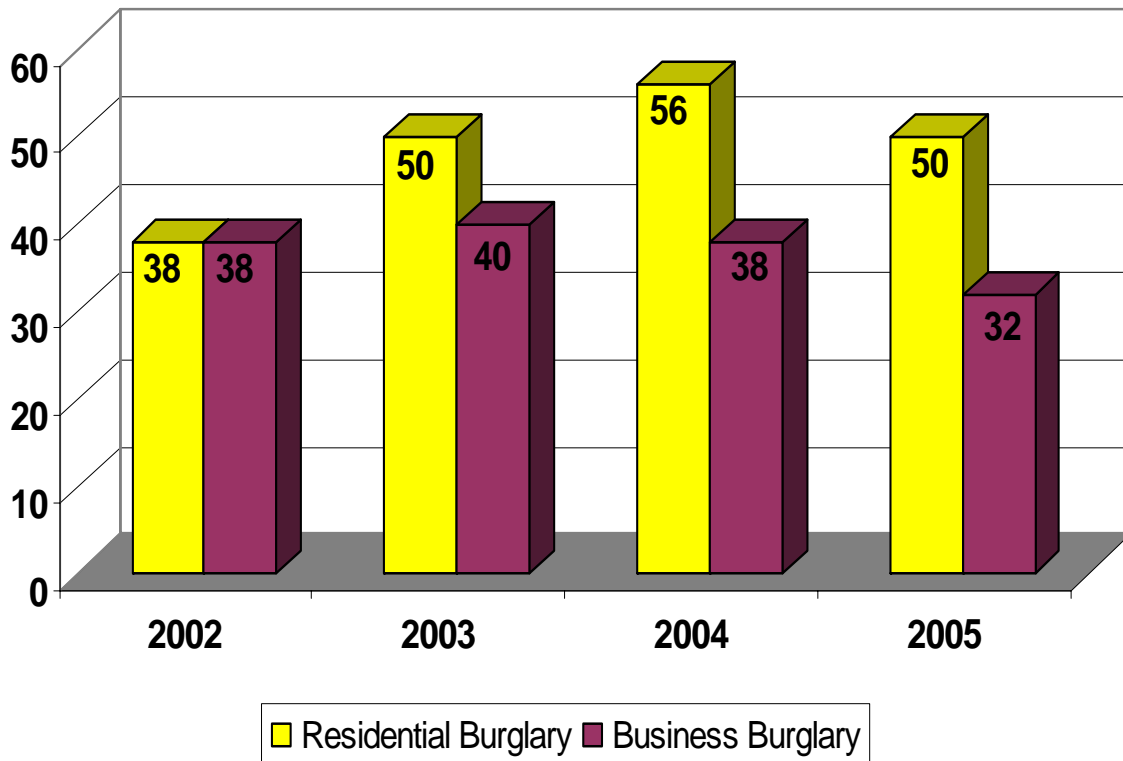
The uniform Crime Report is a city, county, and state law enforcement program which provides a nationwide view of crime, based on the submission of statistics by law enforcement agencies throughout the country. The numbers listed here are the numbers reported to the FBI UCR Program by the Merrillville Police Department. Not all crimes reported to the police department qualify for the UCR Program. The eight crimes displayed below are reported based on UCR guidelines.



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Reported Burglaries

Year to Year Comparison



Residential Burglary by Time of Day

Time	2004	2005	%Change
6p—6a	19	18	-5 %
6a—6p	37	32	-14 %

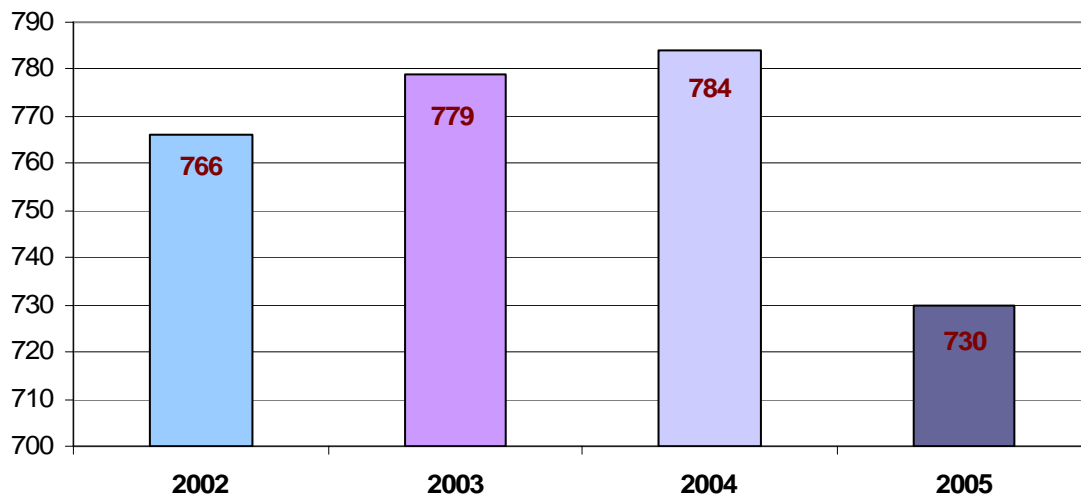
Business Burglary by Time of Day

Time	2004	2005	%Change
6p—6a	18	14	-22 %
6a—6p	13	10	-23 %

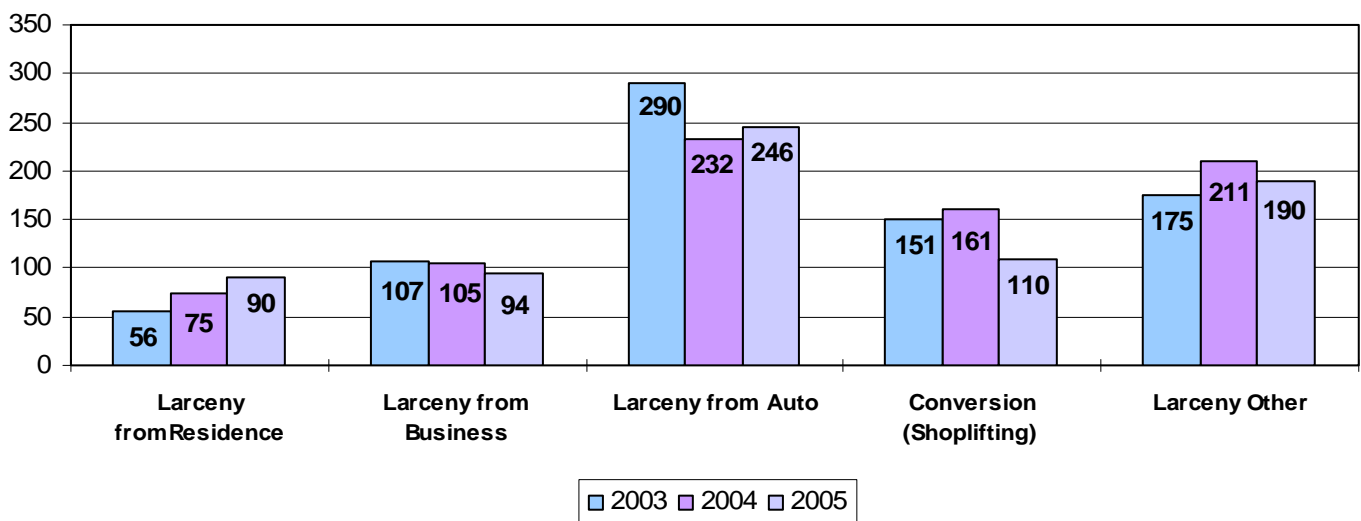
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Reported Larceny

Year to Year Comparison



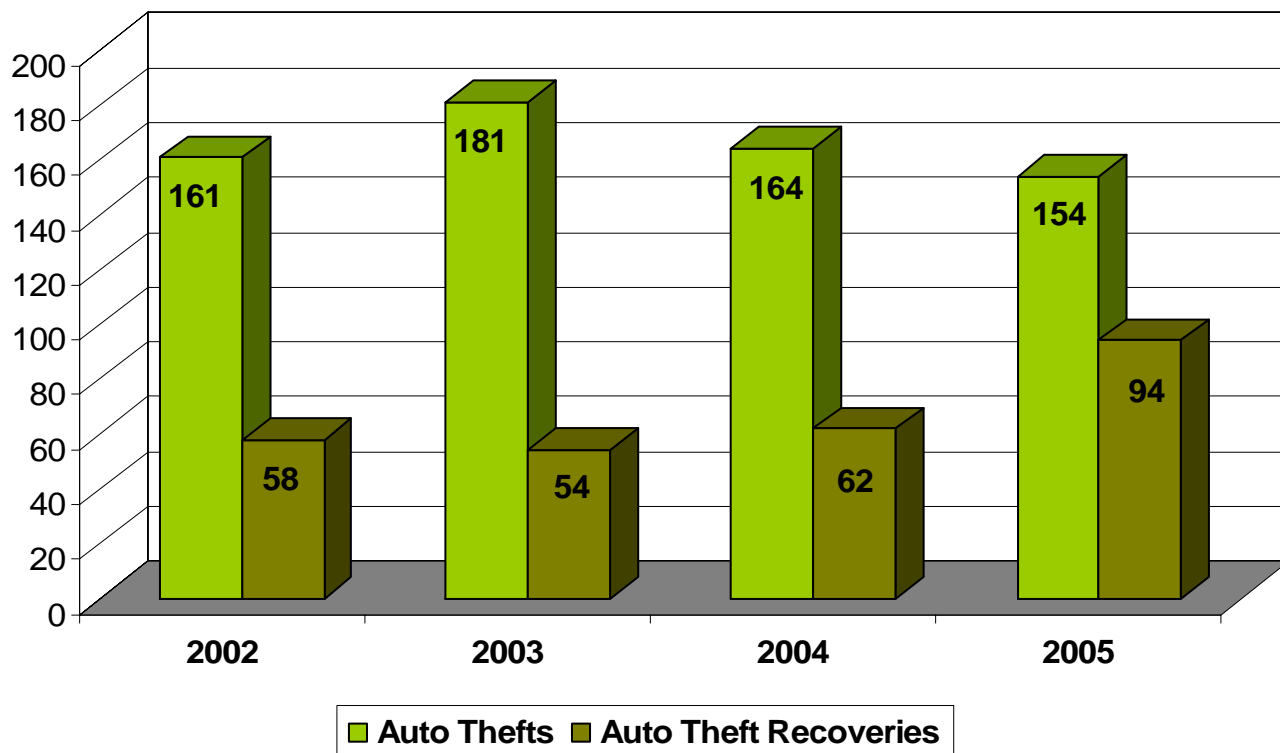
Category Comparison



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Reported Auto Thefts

Year to Year Comparison



Auto Theft by Time of Day

Time	2004	2005	%Change
6p—6a	87	91	+5 %
6a—6p	77	63	-18%

Auto Theft Recovery by Time of Day

Time	2004	2005	%Change
6p—6a	22	37	+68 %
6a—6p	42	57	+36 %

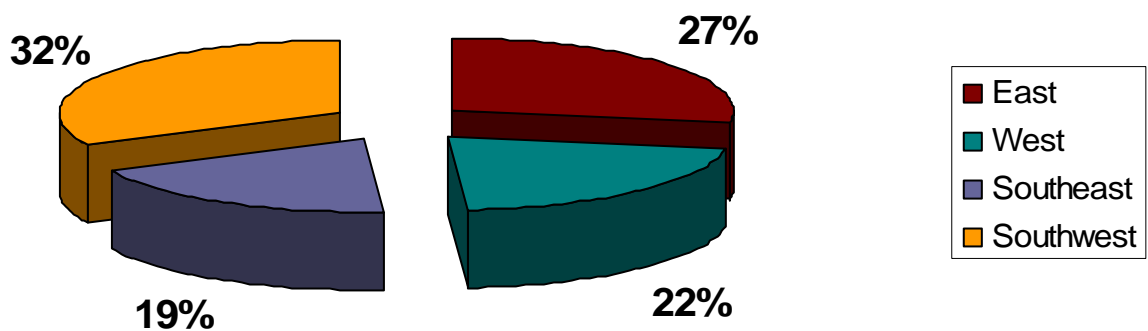
Auto Theft Recovery

Stolen Locally and Recovered Locally	26
Stolen Locally and Recovered by other jurisdiction	68
Total Stolen Vehicles Recovered	94
Stolen Out of Town, Recovered In Town	33

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2005 Calls For Service

Calls for Service by District



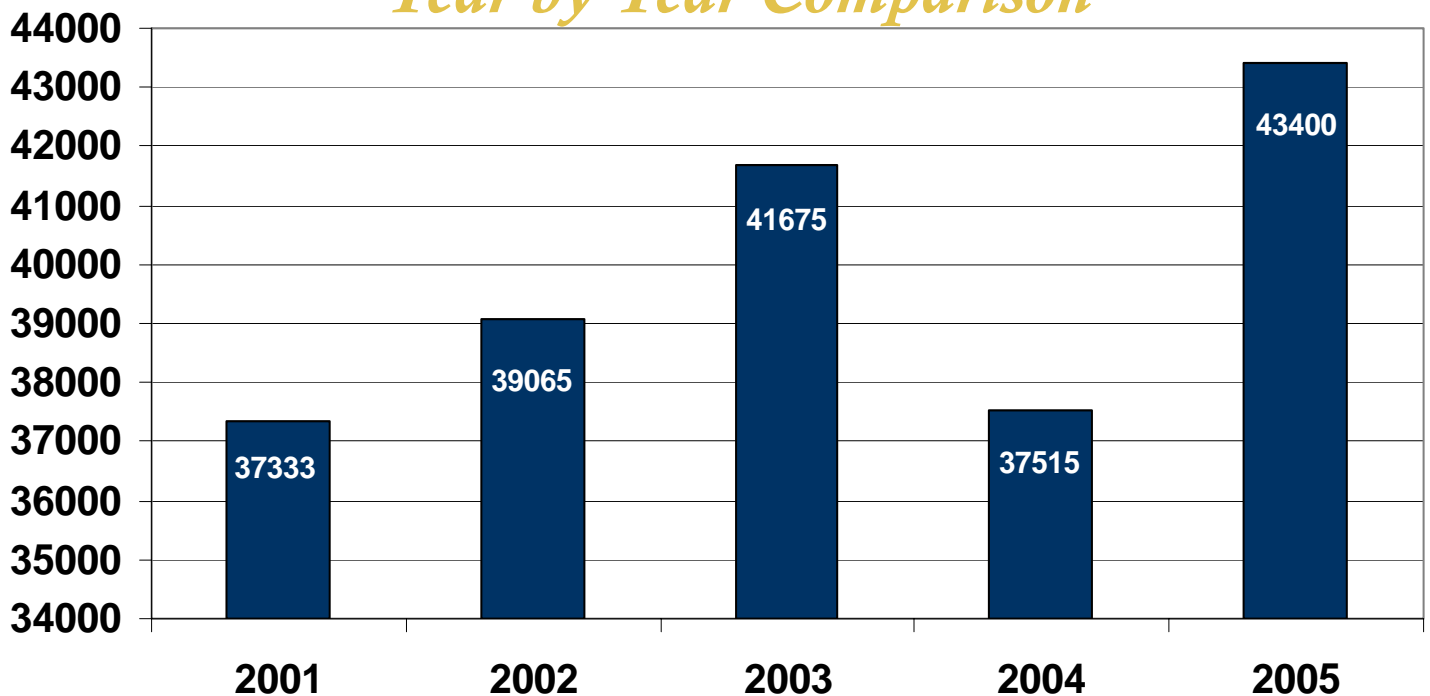
Total Calls For Service 43,400



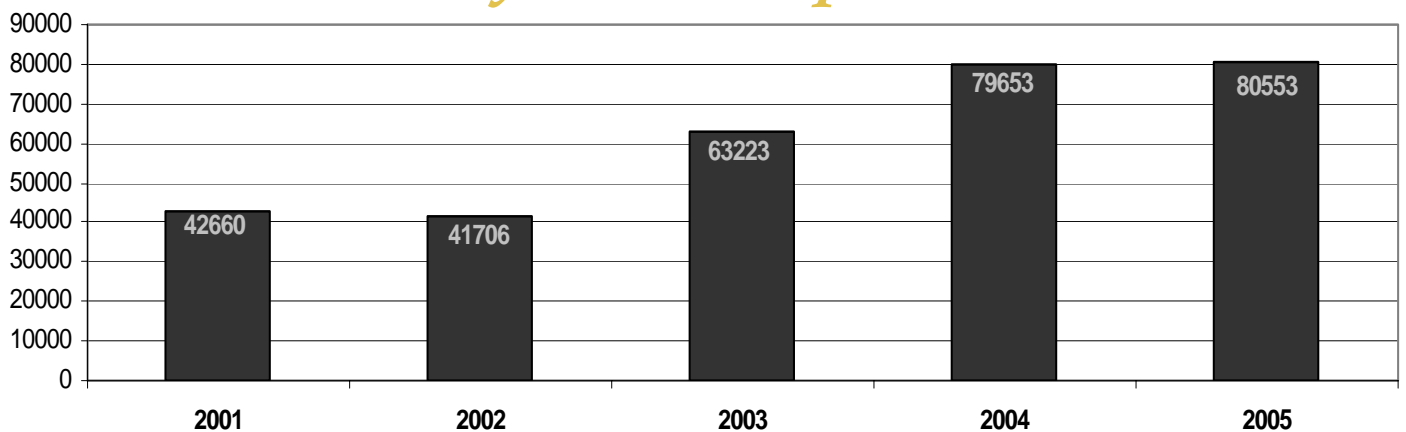
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Calls For Service / Patrol Hours

Calls for Service Year by Year Comparison



Officer Patrol Hours Year by Year Comparison



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Yearly Percentage Change

Percent Change by Classification

Classification	2005 Actual Calls	2004 Actual Calls	% Change 2005-2004
False Alarms	1708	1606	+6 %
Traffic Arrests	10941	9345	+17 %
Traffic Warnings	2239	2503	-11 %
D.U.I. Arrests	134	157	-15 %
Accident Totals	1841	1936	-5 %
Accident Injury	358	474	-24 %
Accident Hit & Run	91	95	-4 %
Accident Fatality	5	6	-16 %
Accident Pedestrian	1	1	0
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	4	2	+100 %
Robbery	18	24	-25 %
Assault	253	178	+42 %
Burglary Residence	50	56	-11 %
Burglary Business	32	38	-16 %
Auto Theft	154	164	-6 %
Auto Recovery	94	62	+51 %
Larceny Residence	90	75	+20 %
Larceny Auto	246	232	+6 %
<hr/>			
Calls For Service	43400	37515	+16 %
Patrol Hours	80553	79653	+1 %

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Criminal Investigations

Total Cases Assigned : **623**

Total Closed Cases : **374**

Total Charges Filed : **208**

2005 Closure Rate
60 %



Total Felony Charges
170

*Total Misdemeanor
Charges*
95

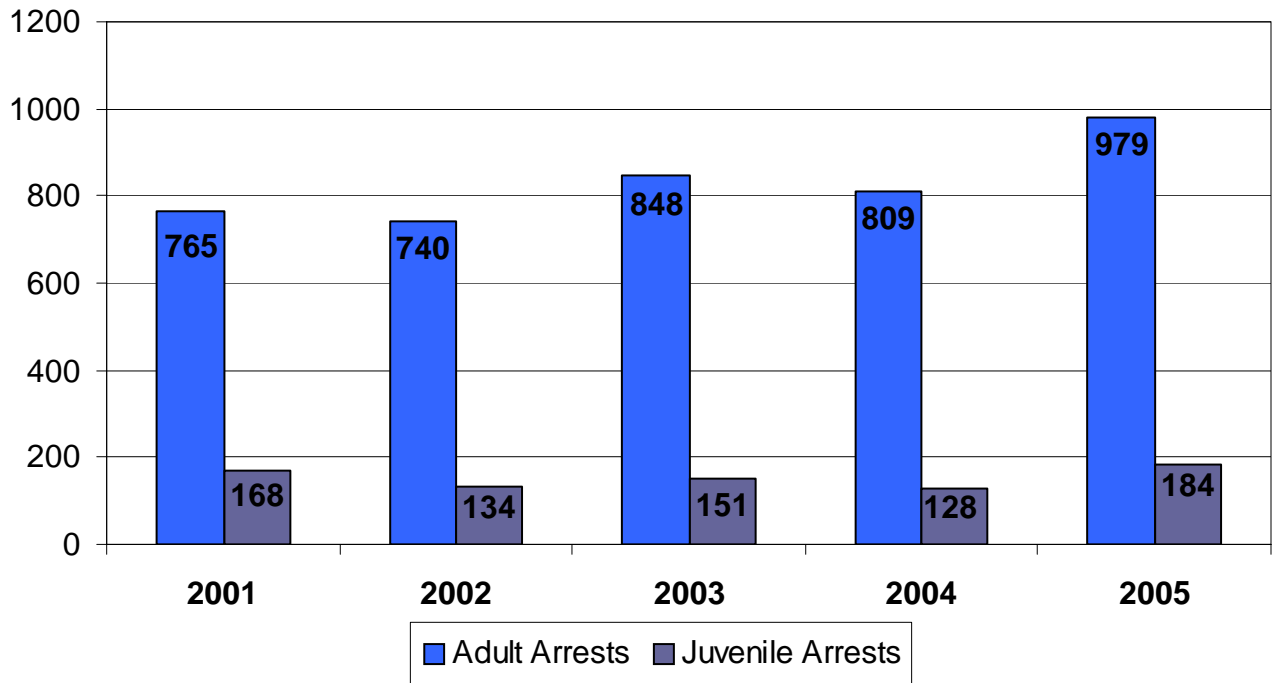
*Total Juvenile
Charges*
18



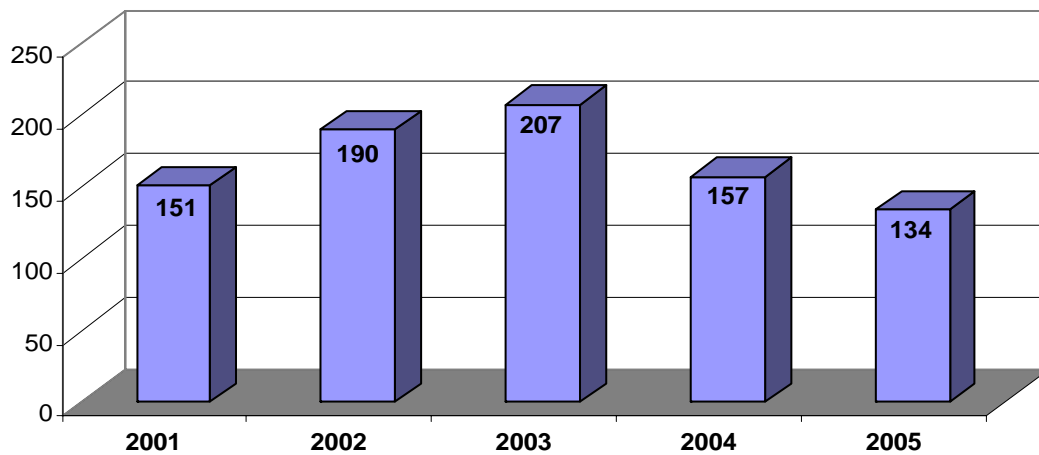
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Department Arrests

Total Criminal Arrests Year to Year Comparison



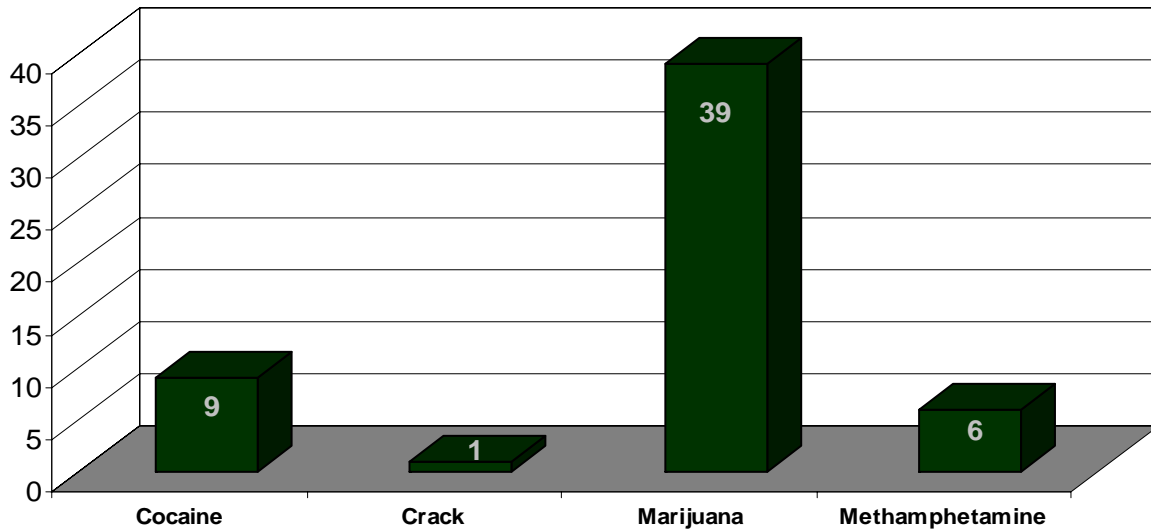
Drunk Driving Arrests



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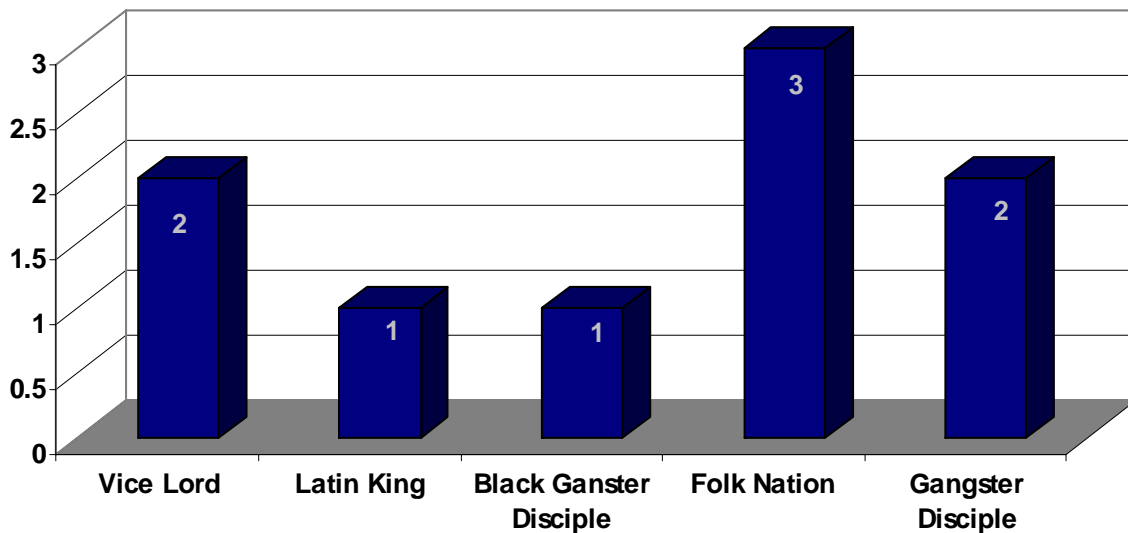
Department Arrests

Arrest by Type of Drug



Adult Drug Arrests Total: 55
Juvenile Drug Arrests Total: 17

Contact with known Gang Members



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New Police Equipment



In 2005 the police department was able to add several new vehicles to its fleet of 58 vehicles. The Town Council made it possible for our department to purchase a new 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle. In addition, we purchased three 2005 Ford Police Vehicles and Twelve 2006 Ford Police cars (Pictured above arriving at the Town Hall). We also were able to complete our new mobile command center which may be utilized for major accident and criminal investigation in addition to ERT call outs. During 2005 we had expenditures totaling \$ 414,528.29 for the purchasing of new equipment. A special thanks to the Town Council for their generous support.

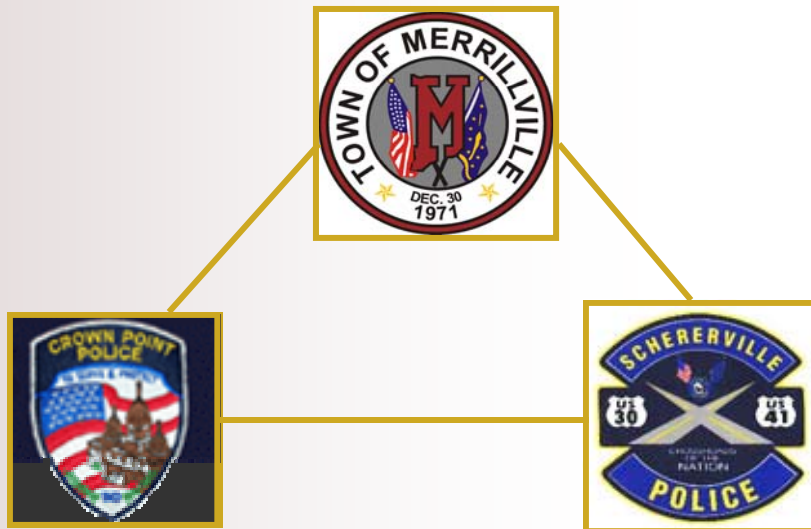


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Emergency Response Team



Back Row: Ray Smith, Robert Wiley, Mike Drohosky, Milan Kenezevic
Middle Row: Mike Vode, Jeff Snemis, David Veschak
Front Row: Robert Morgan, Jack Allendorf



Community Cooperation

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School Resource Officer

School Resource Officer (SRO)

Sergeant Brad Best has been assigned as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Merrillville High School. The SRO program has been in effect for over two decades in many schools throughout the nation. More information on the SRO concept is available at www.NASRO.org.

The goal of an SRO is to serve as a resource for students, teachers, non-instructional staff, parents, administrators, and the community. Since the SRO is a trained police officer, he also focuses on prevention and early intervention, improving the school's security policies, and providing support and help for students who may be struggling with personal issues that could affect their educational welfare.



Sergeant Brad Best

The SRO program was originally funded through the United States Justice Department and is a partnership between the school district and the Merrillville Police Department.

Sergeant Best's office is located in the High school, but his days are divided among all the schools.

Many days, the SRO can be found walking the hallways, keeping peace in the cafeteria by having lunch with students, monitoring recess. This type of interaction gives him the chance to get better acquainted with students and staff, learn more about school programs and policies, and be visible and accessible to all.

Teachers are encouraged to use the SRO's services and knowledge by inviting him into their classrooms to participate in discussions about law-related issues.

Additionally, some of his other duties may involve:

- Working with administrators to review and improve security policies and crisis management plans.
- Serving as a liaison between the schools, the police department, and the community.

Assisting with police-related matters that could potentially create an unsafe situation.



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Animal Control Unit



Barbara Breger
Special Service Officer

Total Animals Taken to
Hobart Humane Society
by Merrillville Police

295

Total Animals Taken to
Hobart Humane Society
by Merrillville Residents

43

Total Animals Returned
to Owners by the Hobart
Humane Society

53

Total Dispatched Runs

658

Total Calls Handled

1448

Total Expenses for Animal Care
at Hobart Humane Society

\$ 5,532.00

Hobart Humane Society

Cost per Animal.....\$ 15.00/Day for 72 Hours

Animals held after 72hours \$10.00/Day thereafter

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2005 Annual D.A.R.E. Report

2005 was once again a successful year for the Merrillville Police Department D.A.R.E. Program. The D.A.R.E. unit of the Police Department has been teaching in the Merrillville Community Schools since 1991 and have instructed nearly 7,000 students on the harmful effects of drugs and other risky behaviors. The D.A.R.E. program reached 546 5th graders during the 2004-05 school year alone.

The D.A.R.E. Officer, Sgt. John Kralik, also provides younger children with other programs. He visits all the Merrillville Elementary Schools and provides a curriculum focused on Kindergarten thru 4th grade. This education process prepares younger students who may be confronted

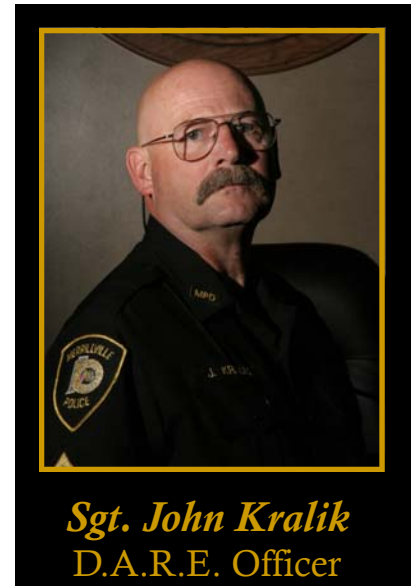
by situations which they may need to make decisions prior to getting the complete D.A.R.E. education which is provided in 5th grade.

It is clear that the D.A.R.E. Program is one of the most effective tools the Town of



Merrillville has in the effort to educate and protect our children from the negative effects of drugs and other negative behaviors. I believe that as the Town continues to grow and the schools become more populated, new challenges will face our agency and the D.A.R.E. program. We will continue to accept the challenges as we enter the years to come.

D.A.R.E.



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